



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION II
26 FEDERAL PLAZA
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10278

36896

JUL 28 1986

Dear Resident:

During the week of June 23, 1986, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and its contractor, Ebasco, began field sampling activities in the Union Lake area. These activities are part of a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) being initiated for the Vineland Chemical Company Inc. (ViChem) site under the Superfund Program. This study is needed to fully define the potential environmental and public health problems presented by the release of contaminants, primarily arsenic compounds, from the ViChem site, and to evaluate alternative solutions to those problems.

EPA has assumed responsibility for these remedial activities using Superfund money because ViChem failed to comply with its agreement to perform the RI/FS under an Administrative Consent Order signed with EPA on September 28, 1984.

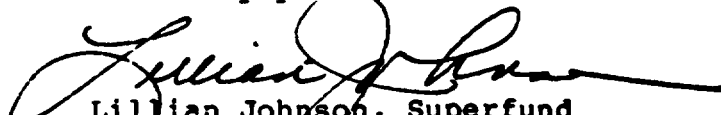
As you know ViChem has been manufacturing arsenical herbicides since the 1950's, and has caused the contamination of local soil, groundwater and surface water resources with arsenic compounds.

EPA's initial activities for the site are designed to determine the extent of contamination away from the ViChem site, namely, in Union Lake, the Maurice River, and the Blackwater Branch. Sampling and analysis of water and sediments are being done for a number of locations in these water bodies.

Other EPA activities for the site and surrounding area, relative to the RI/FS, will follow in accordance with a detailed Work Plan now being developed. Upon completion of the Work Plan, it will be made available for review at several local locations and a public meeting will be scheduled. At the meeting, EPA and its contractor will review the proposed scope of the RI/FS.

If you require further information concerning EPA's activities in Vineland, please contact Rick Wice, Information Specialist, by calling our toll-free Superfund information line at (800) - 346-5009.

Sincerely yours,


Lillian Johnson, Superfund
Community Relations Coordinator
Office of External Programs

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